



Background understanding for teachers and parents

This period of prehistory in Britain generally refers to the time before written records began. It begins when the earliest hunter-gatherers came to Britain from Europe around 450,000 BC and ends with the invasion of the Romans in AD 43.

The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age covers 98% of human history in Britain. The evolution of humans from the earliest hominins to Homosapiens occurred in this period. Some of the major advances in technology were achieved during this period, including the control of fire, agriculture, metalworking and the wheel.

N.C. Links: Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age



When? (Chronology of Key Events)

13000 B.C.	People make cave paintings
4500 – 3500 B.C.	Farming starts and begins to spread
3000BC	The village of Skara Brae is built in Orkney. Construction starts on Stonehenge in Wiltshire. It will take around 1000 years to be finished.
2100 BC	Bronze begins to be used in Britain to make tools and weapons
1200 BC – 800 BC	'Celtic' culture begins to arrive in Britain and tribal kingdoms develop. Iron begins to be used.
AD 43	The Roman's invade Britain

What? (Key Vocabulary)

B.C.E. (means Before the Common Era)	A date such as 3000BC means 3000 years before the year 1AD when Jesus was born.
A.D. (means Anno Domini in Latin which stands for 'in the year of our Lord')	A date such as 2018 AD means 2018 years after Jesus is believed to have been born.
Archaeologist	Person who learns about the past by digging up artefacts to study them.
Tribes	A group of people that live together for protection.
Settlement	A place where a group of people live together in many buildings.
Era/ Period	A length of time covering many years.

Impact (on us at St Joseph the Worker)

The Stone Age people brought new changes to Britain and the way we live including tools and weapons
Summer and Winter Solstice is still celebrated linked with beliefs at this time.
Feats of engineering such as Stonehenge have inspired builders and architects for thousands of years.

Where? (Notable Places)

Skara Brae	An archaeological site of a Stone Age village, in Orkney, Scotland. It is famous because it has been well preserved and taught us a lot about the era.
Stonehenge	A famous monument located in Wiltshire, England. It is a circle of very large stones standing upright. Nobody knows exactly why it exists.

Key Enquiry Skills

Why do you think Stonehenge exists? What can we learn from the different eras? What can artefacts teach us?

Pre Learning Score

Post Learning Score

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